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Global road safety crisis

Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Comoros, Fiji, Gambia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Monaco, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam and Yemen: draft resolution

Improving global road safety

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003, 58/9 of 5 November 2003 and 58/289 of 14 April 2004 on improving global road safety,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the global road safety crisis,[1]

Commending the World Health Organization for its role in implementing the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/289, to act, working in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, as a coordinator on road safety issues within the United Nations system,

Also commending the United Nations regional commissions and their subsidiary bodies for having responded to the above-mentioned resolutions and to the report of the Secretary-General by accelerating or expanding their road safety activities,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made by the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration as described in the report of the Secretary-General as well as the road safety initiatives undertaken by relevant United Nations agencies and international partners,[2]

Underlining the importance for Member States to continue using the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention* as a framework for road safety efforts and implementing its recommendations by paying particular attention to the five risk

[1] A/60/181 and Corr.1.
[2] A/60/181, para. 32.

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factors identified, namely safety belts and child restraints, alcohol, helmets, inappropriate and excessive speed and infrastructure,[3]

Welcoming the proposal of the Economic Commission for Europe to host the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week in Geneva in April 2007 targeted at young road users, including young drivers,

Also welcoming the proposal to designate the third Sunday in November as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in recognition of road traffic victims and their families' loss and suffering,[4]

Convinced that responsibility for road safety rests at the local, municipal and the national levels,

Recognizing that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition have limited capacities to address these issues, and underlining, in this context, the importance of international cooperation towards further supporting the efforts of developing countries, in particular, to build capacities in the field of road safety and providing the financial and technical support associated with such efforts,

1. *Expresses its concern* at the continued increase, in particular in developing countries, in traffic fatalities and injuries worldwide;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of addressing global road safety issues and the need for the further strengthening of international cooperation, taking into account the needs of developing countries, by building capacities in the field of road safety, and providing financial and technical support for their efforts;

3. *Encourages* Member States and the international community including international and regional financial institutions, to lend financial, technical and political support, as appropriate, to the United Nations regional commissions, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations agencies for their efforts to improve road safety;

4. *Invites* the United Nations regional commissions, relevant United Nations agencies and international partners to continue the existing road safety initiatives, and encourages them to take up new ones;

5. *Encourages* Member States to adhere to the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic and 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, in order to ensure a high level of road safety in their countries, and also encourages them to strive to reduce road traffic injuries and mortality in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the improvement in the international legal road traffic safety norms, and welcomes in this regard the work of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe in the elaboration of a substantial package of amendments to the 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals;

7. *Invites* Member States to implement the recommendations of the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*, including those related to the five main risk factors, namely the non-use of safety belts and child restraints, the non-use of

[3] Ibid., para. 37 (f) and (g).

[4] Ibid., para. 37 (i).

helmets, drinking and driving, inappropriate and excessive speed, as well as the lack of appropriate infrastructure;

8. *Also invites* Member States to establish a lead agency, on a national level, on road safety and to develop a national action plan to reduce road traffic injuries, by passing and enforcing legislation, conducting necessary awareness-raising campaigns and putting in place appropriate methods to monitor and evaluate interventions that are implemented;

9. *Invites* the United Nations regional commissions and the World Health Organization to organize jointly, within their resources as well as with voluntary financial assistance from concerned stakeholders from Government, civil society and the private sector, the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week to serve as a platform for global and regional, but mainly national and local, activities to raise awareness about road safety issues and to stimulate and advance responses as appropriate for these settings, and to convene a second Road Safety Stakeholders' Forum in Geneva as part of the Global Road Safety Week to continue work begun at the first forum held at the United Nations Headquarters in 2004;

10. *Invites* Member States and the international community to recognize the third Sunday in November of every year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims as the appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the progress made in improving global road safety;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Global road safety crisis".